

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action of February 22, 2007, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 10-17, 19-32, 34, 39, 41 and 42 have been amended in a manner which is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Claim 46 is newly submitted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

At paragraph 3, claims 10-12, 20-27, 34, 39, 41 and 42 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With regard to claims 20 and 34, amendment has been made to provide proper antecedent basis for the phrases used therein.

The term "substantially" in claims 10-12, 21-27, 39, 41 and 42 has been deleted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 1-9, 12, 15-21, 24-27, 30-38, 40 and 45 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated in view of US patent 6,640,241, Ozzie et al (hereinafter Ozzie).

Ozzie is directed to a distributed communication system for use on the Internet and, in particular, discloses a communications manager for providing communication services for an activity-based collaboration system. It discloses that data change requests (call deltas) are communicated over a network between network-capable devices. The communication manager is operable on the local network capable device which sends locally-generated deltas over the network to at least one remote network-capable device. It also receives remotely-generated deltas over the network from at least one remote network-capable device (see Ozzie, abstract).

At column 8, lines 58-68, the term "telespace" is defined as a virtual place where people gather to participate in one or more activities, and where people share things.

Therefore, it is apparent that the communications manager in Ozzie includes the concept of members of a group (telespace) and communications between network capable devices belonging to the same telespace. However, Ozzie does not appear to define communication actions associated with a notification method, identifying those communication actions associated with a notification method, as well as identifying a communication group having a far-end party of the communication action as a member so as to send notification to target devices, the users of which belong to the identified communication group.

The Office asserts that Ozzie shows defining communication actions associated with a notification method with reference to column 3, lines 64-66, column 6, lines 37-62 and column 7, lines 38-55. Those portions define both "activity" and "delta". The term "delta" refers to a self-contained unit of data that contains one or more tool-to-engine data change requests while "activity" refers to what a user actually does with the system in order to interact with others and can have both an "outside view" and "inside view". Such activities do not appear to be associated with a notification method as required by claim 1. There also does not appear to be defining such communication actions which are associated with a particular notification method. As disclosed in Ozzie, the communications manager is operable on a local network capable device for sending locally-generated deltas over the network to at least one remote network-capable device, as well as receiving remotely-generated deltas over the network from at least one remote network-capable device.

Thus, Ozzie does not appear to define communication actions associated with a notification method, nor identifying communication actions associated with a notification method such that executing the communication action directed to a far-end party by the personal communications device is also associated with identifying a communication group of said at least one communication group having the far-end party of the communication action as a member and thereby sending notifications to target devices that have members that belong to the same identified communication group where such notifications are again related to the executed communication action.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Ozzie.

For similar reasons, independent method claim 16 and independent personal communications device claim 31 are also believed to be not anticipated by Ozzie.

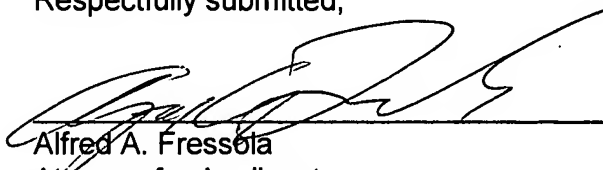
Since independent claims 1, 16 and 31 are believed to be not anticipated by Ozzie, it is respectfully submitted that the claims dependent thereto are also neither anticipated by Ozzie as set forth at paragraph 5 of the Official Action, nor unpatentable under 35 USC §103(a) in view of Ozzie, further in view of US patent application 2005/0053068, Toth et al, as set forth at paragraph 33 of the Official Action, nor unpatentable under 35 USC §103(a) in view of Ozzie, further in view of US patent 7,170,863, Denman et al, as set forth at paragraph 41 of the Official Action. Newly submitted claim 46 corresponds to claim 31, but written using means plus function terminology. For similar reasons as those presented with respect to claims 1 and 31, claim 46 is believed to be allowable over the cited art.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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